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DIFFICULTIES IN PROCURING FEED FOR PRIVATELY OWNED LIVESTOCK

Minsk SEL'SKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 79 p 2

[Article by N. Yermakov (Gomel'skaya Oblast): "How Complexities are Created"]

[Text] During the course of a temporary duty assignment, I happened to meet a worker friend from one of the oblast organizations.

"Some confusion prevails throughout the rayon" he began, "The personnel are not receiving their wages."

It turned out that my friend came to the rayon center following a telephone call from his father. In dividing up a meadow for the purpose of procuring feed for privately owned cattle, the sovkhoz director addressed a petition to the parents:

"In your garden you have a stack of last year's hay and a stack of straw. I have issued a command to release one half of the haying land to which you are entitled."

This family consisting of three individuals is entitled to obtain feed in accordance with an "official" schedule. The father works as a herdsman-shepherd, the mother is a milkmaid and the son -- a combine operator. All carry out their tasks well and not one of their rural neighbors has a bad word to say regarding their work. The son, for example, won first place last year for his harvest efforts and was awarded a television set as a prize.

According to the official record, this family consisting of three members is entitled to cut down 1.05 hectares of a grass stand. They have one cow, a stack of last year's hay and a stack of straw. The sovkhoz director decided to hold back one half of the haying land to which the family was entitled -- there was still more than enough land for the one cow. But the family demanded what they were entitled to.

On the one hand, it would appear that everything was proper. People who work from day to day must not be offended. Moreover, this action would seem

to conform with the conditions of the competition. On the other hand, it turns out that there are some who, as the saying goes, have more than enough, while others must "stomp their feet" in order to find somebody willing to sell 20-30 poods of hay.

"What does the father intend to do with the hay?" I asked the senior son, who also had come to the rayon in order to obtain "justice," "A surplus amount is once again forming."

"Just let it rot or give away the quantity authorized. Such is my understanding of the matter."

He did not wish to discuss the matter further.

In the evening, when I returned from the kolkhoz, I was told that the secretary of the rayon party committee had ordered the sovkhoz director to return the full amount of the haying land to the family.

I have intentionally omitted the name of this family. The members bore no guilt in this incident. It has been this was for a long period of time in the countryside: the residents have always obtained that which they are entitled to receive. It matters not what plans they have for the materials. They can sell it or add it to a cow's bedding. The new sovkhoz director, on the eve of sharing the "percentages," he made the rounds of the village and took note of stacks of blackened hay and straw in the gardens of some workers. The director reasoned correctly: why should there be private feed in the private economy? However, he failed to take one factor into account. Having decided to reduce the size of the haying land plots, he should have required the bookkeeping office to compute the total amount of money owed for hay not received, at cost. The hay remaining out on a meadow could be released (also at cost) to those having a special need for it and this action could be repeated at each farm having a surplus amount of hay. There should be no trading in the case of feed. Yet such trade is being carried out on an extensive scale in the rural areas.

For example, there is the case of Klavdiya Romanovna Sifortsova, a pensioner at the Vysokoborskiy Sovkhoz in Vetkovskiy Rayon, who has worked as a milkmaid all of her life. At the present time, she is at a loss as to where she can purchase hay from day to day. And what can the solution be for the field crop husbandry brigade of Valentina Dadychina, which carried out haymaking work on a regular basis and earned only twelve one-hundredths of a haying land plot? Straw is also lacking, for it is allocated only to those who participated in the hay stacking work. And this would mainly be the machine operators. At the same time, just as at any other farm, there are families here which are constantly procuring excessive quantities of hay.

This present year is a particularly difficult one from the standpoint of procuring feed for privately owned livestock. Thus, there is one solution.

the kolkhozes and sovkhozes must display greater concern for this problem. The distribution of haying land must necessarily be carried out so as to ensure that each family obtains no more feed than is required for the maintenance of a cow. The remaining hay on a percentage basis and the plots for official workers must be distributed among pensioners and single women at cost.

Unfortunately, the haying lands are being distributed on a very tardy basis. At a number of kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Vetkovskiy, Kormyanskiy and Dobrushskiy rayons, the meadows have still not been divided up. The grasses have been allowed to stand too long and very little benefit can now be derived from them. The people are leading uncertain lives. And in Braginskiy rayon the "percentages" were issued even prior to the commencement of the grain harvest work. At the Kolkhoz imeni Tel'man, pensioner Ivan Ivanovich Dvorkovskiy had the following to say:

"Everyone went out to harvest the crops in a harmonious manner. Each individual has a definite supply of hay. This means something, considering this year's difficult conditions. When straw and potatoes are added from the private plots, we are able to feed the livestock well.

The privately owned cattle constitute only a small percentage of the overall livestock capital. And this percentage must not be allowed to become smaller. The path for achieving this lies in ensuring correct feed distribution.

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STRESS ON AUGMENTING LIVESTOCK FEED SUPPLIES IN MOLDAVIA

[Editorial Report] The Moldavian daily SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian published several articles this summer pointing out a variety of untapped or under utilized resources for augmenting supplies of livestock feed. A late July issue carries a 1000-word article by Chief Agronomist I. Chelak giving advice and instructions on making the most of catch crops. (Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIA in Russian 25 Jul 79 p 1)

This is followed a couple days later by a 3500-word article urging fuller utilization of a wide variety of wastes from the processing industry such as pulp, straw, stalks, sunflower anthodia, beet tops, pressed skins of fruit & grapes, spent brewers' grains and malt sprouts, gluten and corn pulp, scraps from the essential oils industry and also from meat combines, slaughter houses and dairies. (Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 31 Jul 79 p 1)

The campaign continues late in the summer and the stress shifts from food industry by products to row crop by products. An 800-word article by M. Skripnik in early September begins by stressing again the important place in the feed sphere occupied by wastes from field work, fruit and vegetable growing and viticulture--straw, corn stalks, sugar beet tops, sunflower caps and pressed grape skins etc. The main part of the article then zeroes in on sunflower caps, stressing techniques for ensiling and utilization as feed. (Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 4 Sep 79 p 2)

About two weeks later Skripnik publishes another article, this one a 600-word piece stressing the advantages of using sugar beet tops for feed. On the average the tops comprise 30-35 percent of the beet's weight or more than 100 quintals per hectare. This converts to about 20 quintals of feed units per hectare. The remainder of the article deals with nutrient value and storage techniques. (Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA 19 Sep 79 p 2)

This is followed on the next day by a 1000-word article by I. S. Chelak (author of the 19 July article cited above). This time Chelak devotes his attention to techniques for storing and preserving beet tops, sunflower anthodia and corn stalks. (Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 20 Sep 79 p 2)

A similar point is stressed in republic level feed procurement reviews both early and later on in September. The agricultural workers are urged to make the most of opportunities to gather and process sugar beet tops and sunflower caps in order to augment supplies of livestock feed. (Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA 8 Sep 79 p 2 & 22 Sep 79 p 1)

CSO: 1824

BELORUSSIAN SEMINAR ON EXPANDING INTER-ENTERPRISE CONTACTS

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 31 Aug 79 p 3

[Article: "Expanding Inter-enterprise Cooperation"]

[Text] A republic seminar for the discussion of problems concerned with beef production based upon inter-enterprise cooperation convened in Minsk on 30 August.

The seminar opened with a brief opening address by the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers for the Belorussian SSR and Chairman of Gosplan for the republic, V.A. Gvozdev.

The speaker, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Belorussian SSR A.A. Chernyavskiy and also those who participated in the debates, noted that a definite amount of experience had been accumulated in Belorussia in the specialization and concentration of agricultural production, based upon inter-enterprise cooperation and agro-industrial integration. For example, an inter-enterprise association for the production of beef, created in 1975 and consisting of 17 kolkhozes, is performing successfully in Gomel'skiy Rayon. On the leading farm -- the Kolkhoz imeni Uritskiy -- a livestock complex for the fattening of 10,000 head of cattle annually was built. Here the feed production problems have been solved successfully and the branch volumes and effectiveness are steadily increasing. During 4 years of work under the new conditions, the productivity of each hectare of land has increased from 27 to 60 quintals of feed units. This made it possible to supply the livestock with adequate amounts of feed and to produce 2,703 tons of high quality beef last year.

The experience of the Kolkhoz imeni Uritskiy, approved by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia and the government of the republic, is being introduced extensively into operations at other farms. Today there are already 187 specialized kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Belorussia, which are serving as inter-enterprise facilities for the fattening of cattle. Special attention is being given to examining the structure of the area under crops, in the interest of ensuring that the

BEEF CATTLE RAISING IN THE UKRAINE

Moscow EKONOMIKA SEL'SKOGO KHOZYAYSTVA in Russian No 8 Aug 79 pp 38-43

[Article by V. Ryzhkov]

[Text] It was noted at the July 1978 Plenary Session of the CPSU Central Committee that a wide-scale program for the development of beef cattle raising had been developed and implemented in the Ukraine. "In the near future," said Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, "this sector must be sufficiently developed to turn it into a major source of high quality meat supply for the country."[1]

Now 150 farms are being established in the Ukraine for raising of beef cattle (mixed breeds of Simental, Charolais, [Kian] and others). In their degree of specialization in beef cattle these farms are divided into three types of regions. In the first beef cattle raising is becoming the primary and practically sole specialty of productive animal husbandry (Koryukovskiy region in the Chernigovskaya oblast). In the second beef cattle raising is being combined with developed dairy cattle farming (Repkinskiy region in the Repkinskaya oblast). In addition, there are regions where beef cattle raising is developed on only one or two farms.

Beef cattle raising can be undertaken on a few farms in practically any region of the republic except the suburban regions. It is feasible to develop beef cattle raising as the primary or sole livestock specialty in the far-northern, northwestern and western regions of the Ukraine that have low levels of cultivation (less than 65 percent) and are fairly remote from large cities.

1 L.I. Brezhnev. "On Further Development of the Agriculture of the USSR." Report at CPSU Central Committee Plenary Session, 3 July 1978. Resolution of the Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, adopted 4 July 1978. Moscow, "Politizdat," 1978, p 19.

Where beef cattle operations are conducted on only one or two farms in a region production is based on full-cycle herd development at each farm. Where there is a large number of farms in the region, with more than 5,000 head, it is necessary to put inter-farm specialization into practice. This approach makes it possible for the region to establish farms rationally sized for cattle finishing and others for keeping heifers. In this arrangement the bulk of the farms will fill a calf-production role, keeping only cows with calves up to weaning age. In order to keep the calving farms replenished with brood cows, farms must be established to maintain heifers, which are taken from the calving farms as 6-8 month calves and returned to them as heifers in their sixth month of pregnancy, that is at 24 months of age.

The calving farms send the heifer-replenishment farms 35 heifer calves per 100 beef cows. Allowing for culls during the growing period, the heifer-replenishment farms return 25-30 head to the calving farms per 100 cows. All young stock in excess of breeding requirements (steers and about 50 percent of the heifer calves) is sent to the finishing farms at 6-8 months of age.

Thus the regions having a large number of beef cattle can establish full-cycle farms as well as calving, heifer-replenishment and finishing farms.

On the example of the "Zarya Kommunizma" farm in the Novoarkhangel'skiy region, Kirovogradskaya oblast; the "Shlyakh do Kommunizma" farm in the Berezanskiy region, Chernigovskaya oblast; and farms in the Koryukovskiy and Repkinskiy regions, Repkinskaya oblast, we have developed basic organizational and production principles of a system for establishing beef cattle farms and norm factors for beef herds in full-cycle production operations and various degrees of intensification in raising young stock. The methodological principles of specializing in beef cattle by region have also been developed. These developments have been approved by rayon and oblast organizations and are being introduced into practice. (Table 1)

An average daily weight gain of 700 grams for young stock of all half-grown groups (including the breeding group) over the entire feeding period can be attained in the initial period of beef farm organization, while sufficient experience is being gained in introducing this new specialty to the Ukraine. During this period the average live weight per head at slaughter is about 500 kilograms and beef production is 5.1-5.3 hundredweight per cow per year. As experience is gained in development of beef cattle operations on advanced farms the average daily weight gain by young stock will increase to 780-800 grams. The average live weight at slaughter will increase to 550 kilograms and beef production per year per cow will reach 5.6-5.8 cwt. In the more distant future the average daily weight gain will increase to 850-900 grams, average live weight at slaughter to about 600 kilograms and beef production per cow to 6.2-6.4 cwt. It is envisioned that all cows culled from the herds will be sent to finishing farms before being turned over to the meat processing plants.

Table 1

	Average live weight at slaughter (kg)		
	500	550	600
Cows culled from herds (%)	25-30	25-30	25-30
Heifer age at breeding (mo)	18	18	18
Slaughter age of young stock (mo)	18	18	18
Ratio of cows in herd (%)	35-37	35-37	35-37
Calves per 100 cows/heifers (%)	84	84	84
Heifer weight at breeding (kg)	380	415	450
Average weight at slaughter (kg)			
-- bulls	500	550	600
-- heifers	400	450	500
-- cows	600	650	700
Average daily weight gain for young stock herd-wide (g)	707	787	866
-- bulls	840	932	1023
Beef production per cow per year (live weight, cwt)	5.2	5.7	6.3
Feed expenditure for one cow [so shleyfom] per year (100 feed units)	60.5	62.9	65.3
Concentrated feed (inc. grass meal)			
-- steppe zone	20.1	22.4	24.9
-- forest-steppe zone	18.3	20.7	23.1
--Woodlands zone	14.8	17.2	19.6
Feed expenditure per cwt of beef (inc. concentrate) (100 feed units)			
-- steppe zone	3.9	3.9	4.0
-- forest-steppe zone	3.5	3.6	3.7
-- Woodlands zone	2.8	3.0	3.1
Ratio of concentrated feed (nutrient content, %)			
-- steppe zone	33.3	35.6	38.1
-- forest-steppe zone	30.3	32.9	35.4
-- Woodlands zone	24.5	27.2	30.0

Table 1 (continued)

	Average live weight at slaughter (kg)		
	500	550	600
Convertible protein content in one feed unit (g)	100	103	107
Number of cattle tended by one farm worker (head)	80	90	100
Labor expenditure per cwt of beef (manhours)	16	13	10

A rational specialized production structure is the basis of correct organization of finishing farms. On the farms in the Woodlands [Polesk'/Poles'e] of the USSR the leading specialty -- beef cattle raising -- can be combined with production of marketable potatoes and flax. In the forest-steppe it can be combined with the production of sugar beets. The calf production and heifer-replenishment farms in the forest-steppe zone also have grain as a marketable crop and those in the steppe have grain and sunflowers. Those farms that specialize in raising and finishing beef stock from 6-8 months of age should be relieved of obligations to sell grain and sunflowers to the state. It is not advantageous to develop both dairy and beef cattle operations on the same farm at the same time. On some selected farms in the forest-steppe and steppe zones beef cattle raising can be combined with finishing of young dairy stock bought from farms in the region.

Analysis showed that the highest production and economic indicators were achieved by finishing farms having 6-8,000 hectares of agricultural land in the forest-steppe zone, 8-10,000 hectares in the steppe zone and 4-6,000 hectares in the woodlands zone. And these are the sizes that we assumed as rational for near-term planning. With the indicated area and a yield of 3,000 feed units per hectare in the forest-steppe, 2,500 in the steppe and woodlands zone, beef cattle farms can have 3-4,000 cows and produce 1,500-2,500 tons of beef in the forest-steppe and steppe zones, 1,500-2,500 cows and 800-1,500 tons of beef per year in the Woodlands.

Each farm can maintain 1-2,000 cows [so shleyfom] or with calves to 6-8 months of age. Heifer-replenishment farms in the regions with the most beef cattle (20,000 cows) can have 9-10,000 head of young stock from 6-8 to 24 months of age and produce 2,000-2,200 tons of beef. On the smaller

heifer-replenishment farms (with at least 7,000 beef cows on the region) the yearly average number of head of young stock is 3,000-3,500 with beef production at 650-800 tons. The largest finishing farms (20,000 beef cows in the region) can have 11-12,000 head of young stock from 6-8 to 18 months of age with beef production at 3,900-4,200 tons. Smaller finishing farms (7,000 beef cows in the region) will have about 4,000 head of young stock with beef production at 1,300-1,500 tons. Rational sizing calls for facilities to accommodate 3,000-5,000 head at one time on heifer-replenishment farms and 5,000-10,000 on finishing farms.

Efficiency of a beef cattle operation is determined to a large extent by the expense of raising a calf to eight months of age. All expenses for maintaining the cow during this period are applied to the calf. Therefore the cost per unit of live weight gain up to weaning is approximately twice that of weight gained after weaning. Consequently, the greater the per head weight gain from eight months to slaughter the higher the efficiency of the operation overall. In view of this, in those regions of the Ukraine where there is intensive feed production and a real possibility of achieving an average daily weight gain of 1,000 grams, it is economically less practical to raise the fast-maturing, relatively low-live-weight beef cattle breeds, such as the Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus, than to raise the larger breeds. For this reason herds are being established in the Ukraine on the basis of derivative breeds such as Simental, Charolais and [Kian].

A high calf yield per 100 brood cows and high live weight of stock slaughtered at an early age form the basis of the efficiency of a beef cattle operation. Our studies show that in the conditions of the Ukraine the minimum levels of intensity in a beef cattle operation should be: calf yield per 100 cows and heifers at least 80 percent; average live weight of steers slaughtered at 18 months at least 500 kilograms and 400 kilograms for heifer calves; average daily weight gain for young stock of all half-grown groups at 700 grams, counting steers at 850 grams. At the same time the average yearly beef production should be at least five cwt (live weight) per cow. Beef cattle operations should not be conducted on those farms in the Ukraine that, for reasons of feed or facility conditions, can not achieve a 700-gram daily weight gain. It is economically feasible, under intensive conditions, to raise steers resulting from cross-breeding of Simental, Charolais and [Kian] breeds to a live weight of 600 kilograms in 18 months. Young stock mixed-bred from these breeds, even with such a high live weight, yield beef with a relatively low fat content -- no more than 14-16 percent. It goes without saying that such a high level of intensity in raising young stock can be attained only be advanced farms in the near term. However, as the fodder base is strengthened and the nutritional value of feed rations is raised, these indicators will become realistic for the majority of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and inter-farm enterprises.

On full-cycle farms a herd should be made up of 35-37 percent cows, 7 percent heifers, heifer-calves to one year 18-20 percent, heifer-calves over one year old 9-10 percent, bulls to one year 18-20 percent and bulls over

Table 2

Feed	Steppe		Forest-Steppe		Woodlands	
	Cwt	Nutritional content %	Cwt	Nutritional content %	Cwt	Nutritional content %
	To achieve 500 kilograms live weight at slaughter					
Concentrate	20.1	33.3	18.3	30.3	14.8	24.5
Succulent -overall	81.7	27.0	94.0	29.9	75.0	24.0
-silage	81.7	27.0	79.5	26.3	50.1	16.6
Rough -overall	32.1	16.0	26.5	14.6	35.5	19.8
-hay	2.4	2.0	5.0	4.1	5.0	4.1
-senazh	10.5	6.1	9.6	5.5	18.6	10.8
Green	79.6	23.7	84.8	25.2	106.6	31.7
	To achieve 600 kilograms live weight at slaughter					
Concentrate	24.9	38.1	23.1	35.4	19.6	30.0
Succulent -overall	81.7	25.0	94.0	27.7	75.0	22.2
-silage	81.7	25.0	79.5	24.4	50.1	15.3
Rough -overall	32.1	14.8	26.5	13.5	35.5	18.4
-hay	2.4	1.8	5.0	3.8	5.0	3.8
-senazh	10.5	5.6	9.6	5.1	18.6	10.0
Green	79.6	22.0	84.8	23.4	106.6	29.4

[Senazh -- feed consisting of semi-cured grass kept in sealed containers]

one year old 9-10 percent. On calving farms which keep only cows with calves to 6-8 months and heifers from 24 to 27 months old, cows should make up 57-59 percent of the herd, suckling calves 38-39 percent and heifers 3-4 percent. Cows are not kept on finishing farms and heifer-replenishment farms that receive young calves at 6-8 months of age.

The basis for rational organization of beef production on specialized beef farms is intensive raising of young stock and, one should conclude from this, organization of the fodder base. On these specialized farms agriculture must be subordinated to the requirements of the primary specialty -- deriving from each 100 hectares of agricultural land the maximum meat yield with the minimum expenditure of labor and means. On the basis of an economic evaluation of fodder crops, feeds and feeding methods on selected farms and study of experimental data on intensive raising of young beef stock, norms have been developed for preparation of feeds for beef cattle to conform to natural, climatic and economic conditions of farms in the various zones of the Ukraine (table 2). Analysis showed that to raise beef cattle over the entire period from birth to slaughter the ratio of concentrated feeds (including grass meal) in rations (in percentage of nutritional content) should be: to achieve an average daily weight gain of 600-700 grams -- 30 percent; 700-800 grams -- 35 percent; 800-900 grams -- 40 percent; 900-1,000 grams -- 45 percent; more than 1,000 grams -- 50 percent. This presupposes that the concentrate will include 20-25 per cent by weight, or about 15 percent by nutritional content, of grass meal. Therefore, the expenditure of strictly concentrated feeds (without grass meal) per 100 kilograms of live weight gain in intensive beef cattle operations in the republic overal is from 2,600 feed units in the Woodlands to 3,400 feed units in the steppe zone, which is totally acceptable. It is sufficient to say that in 1977 the kolkhozes in the Ukraine expended 2,700 feed units of concentrate (without grass meal) to produce 100 kilograms of beef and the sovkhozes 3,200 units.

Their remoteness from large cities, the availability of large areas of natural pasture land and also their capability to produce beef profitably make it essential that beef cattle raising be developed in a number of the woodlands regions as the primary or sole livestock specialty. A group of regions in the republic has been designated for this purpose. The Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Agriculture has directed the Scientific Research Institute for Livestock Raising in the Forest-Steppe and Woodlands Zones of the Ukrainian SSR to develop the basic organizational principles for establishment of these new farms.

In connection with this, a system for the specialization of the Koryukovskiy region of the Chernigovskaya oblast on development of beef cattle raising was worked out in 1977. It calls for leaving 14 farms in the region instead of 20. The average area of agricultural land on these farms is 5,000 hectares, including 3,100 hectares of pasture. Milk will be supplied to the population by the "Ukraina" kolkhoz which specializes in dairy production.

It keeps 2,000 cows. In addition, each kolkhoz keeps 50-100 cows to satisfy its own milk needs. It is planned that 5,000 chickens will be concentrated on the "Ukraina" farm. A much larger number of swine is being concentrated on the kolkhoz imeni Chapayev, where construction has already begun on the swine facilities. The remaining 12 farms will concentrate on beef cattle operations. Eleven of them will be involved in calf production and the "Chervonyy Mayak" kolkhoz will be a finishing farm. Thus, 9 of the 14 farms will have a single market specialty -- beef cattle -- and five will have two each.

By 1990 the number of cattle on the farms of the Korvukovskiy region is projected to increase by 75 percent of 1976 and the number of cows is to double. Of the 20,000 head of cows 17,500, or 88 percent, will be of beef breeds and 2,500 will be of dairy breeds. In 1976 100 hectares of agricultural land on the region's farms carried 46.7 head of cattle, including 14.2 cows. By 1990 the number of head run on 100 hectares will increase to 81.8 and 28.5 respectively. Such a significant growth in the number of head is possible because only beef cattle will be further expanded (total number of head of other livestock is stabilizing) and feed production will be substantially increased.

In working out the specialization of the region particular attention was given to achieving a high live weight in young stock at slaughter. By 1985 live weight of 18-month steers will reach 500 kilograms and reach 570 kilograms by 1990. Production of meat and milk (translated to meat) per 100 hectares will 132 cwt by 1980, 144 cwt by 1985 and 184 cwt by 1990. Cattle feed requirements were determined on the basis of an expenditure of 1,120 feed units per cwt of beef. On the farms that keep cows with calves up to eight months old the feed expenditure per cwt of beef will be 1,360 feed units. On farms that feed and finish young stock more than eight months old the expenditure will be 7,500 feed units. But, in spite of the relatively high feed expenditure per cwt of beef, production costs in the region will, in fact, be lower, due to high live weight gains, than for raising young stock of dairy breeds and the profit from production will be higher. Thus in 1976 labor expended per cwt of live weight gain was 52.3 manhours and the cash cost was 155 rubles with a profit margin of beef production of 38.5 percent. As the studies showed, by 1990 the labor expenditure per cwt of beef can be lowered to 18 manhours and the cash cost lowered to 128 rubles, raising the profit margin of beef production to 70 per cent. At the same time the labor expenditure per cwt of beef will 28 manhours on the farms that keep cows with calves to 8 months, 4-5 manhours on the farms that feed and finish young stock and 12 manhours on the heifer-replenishment farms. Thus the productivity of labor of stockmen involved in bee production will more than triple.

The Repkinskiy region has some distinctive economic conditions. A low percentage of land in the region is under cultivation. Additionally, it is situated relatively near the city of Chernigov and expected to satisfy the dairy needs of its population. Given these circumstances, it was decided to

Table 3 Таблица 3

(2) Кормовая продуктивность гектара (100 кормовых единиц)	Типы хозяйств, занимающихся производством мяса (1)									
	с замкнутым оборотом стада (3)			репродукторные (4)			выращивающие нетелей (5)		откормочные (6)	
	(7) поголовье		производство мяса (8)	(7) поголовье		производство мяса (8)	(11) поголовье	производство мяса (8)	(11) поголовье	производство мяса (8)
	(9) всего	(10) коров		(9) всего	(10) коров					
15	63	23	144	66	38	114	62	139	55	195
20	84	30	192	88	51	152	82	185	73	260
25	105	38	240	109	63	189	103	231	92	325
30	126	46	288	131	76	227	124	278	110	390
40	168	61	384	175	101	303	164	370	146	519
50	211	76	481	219	127	379	206	463	183	649
60	253	92	577	263	152	455	247	556	220	779
70	296	107	673	306	177	530	288	648	256	909

Key:

1. Types of farms involved in beef production
2. Fodder yield per hectare (100 feed units)
3. Full-cycle farms
4. Calving farms
5. Heifer-replenishment farms
6. Finishing farms
7. Total number of head
8. Beef production (cwt)
9. Overall
10. Cows included in item 7
11. Head

maintain the region's milk production at the 1977 level in the long-term plan. By 1990 the region will have 12,000 dairy cows and 15,000 beef cows.

A structure for the sown area was developed in line with the specialization of the regions. In the Koryukovskiy region 48.1 percent of the arable land will be planted in grain, 6.5 in flax, 10.6 in potatoes and vegetables and 34.8 in fodder crops. In the Repkinskiy region these figures will be 49.1, 5.3, 10.1 and 35.5 percent respectively.

As the primary method beef cows with calves are kept unrestrained on deep bedding and fed for the whole year in grazing-feeding pens. After weaning young calves are also kept unrestrained on deep bedding in crates or corrals. In the steppe and forest-steppe zones beef cattle can be kept in stalls year round. In the woodlands zone it is advisable to keep them in fenced pastures during the summer.

Equipment requirements should be calculated on the premise that one PSK-5 feed truck is required for 3,000 head of beef cattle (including calves under 8 months), one KLT-3A feed spreader for 5,000-6,000 head and one KTU-10 spreader for 1,000 head. With mechanized feed loading and distribution one stockman can feed 200-250 cows with calves to 6-8 months, or 500 head of breeding stock after weaning, or 1,000 head on finishing rations. Personnel requirements should be calculated on the premise that one machine operator can feed 300 cows with calves to 8 months, or 450-500 head of older young stock. On farms of various sizes and full-cycle farms the number of head that each worker (including all categories of support personnel) can care for may be 80-100 with a labor expenditure per cwt or live weight gain, depending on the level of intensity in the raising process, of 10-16 manhours. On the calving farms these figures are 55-70 head and 19-25 manhours respectively; on the heifer-replenishment farms 90-100 head and 10-12 manhours; on the finishing farms 150-180 head and 3.6-4.5 manhours. Depending on the degree of intensity in feed production and the amount of feed, the number of head of cattle and the beef production per 100 hectares of agricultural land can be as shown (table 3).

The organization of farms involved in beef production is tied to fixed capital investments. On full-cycle farms the capital expenditure for construction per cow [so shlevfom] amounts to 1,500-1,800 rubles, on the calving farms about 1,000-1,200 rubles. On the heifer farms the expenditure amounts to 650-700 rubles per average annual head of young stock and 550-600 rubles on the finishing farms.

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PRODUCTIVITY OF PRIVATE PLOTS COMPARED TO KOLKHOZES AND SOVKHOZES

Moscow POLITICHESKOYE SAMOOBRAZOVANIYE in Russian No 4, Apr 79 signed to press 26 Mar 79 pp 95-98

[Article by Ye. Chernov: "Concerning Subsidiary Farms of Kolkhoz Farmers, Workers and Employees"]

[Text] Journal reader V. Magdalyuk from Kishinev has sent a letter to the editorial office asking us to describe the role of the subsidiary farms of kolkhoz farmers, workers and employees in the production of products. His question is answered by economist Ye. Chernov.

Let us start straight away with figures. At the present time the share of subsidiary farms of kolkhoz farmers, workers and employees amounts to more than one-quarter of the gross production of agriculture. They produced in 1977 (figures for 1978 have still not been published) 59 percent of the potatoes grown in the country, 29 percent of the vegetables, 29 percent of meat and milk production, 35 percent of the eggs and 19 percent of the wool. This attests to the fact that subsidiary farms make a significant contribution to the production of agricultural products. They serve, as Comrade L.I. Brezhnev pointed out at the July (1978) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, as an important source of replenishment of food resources. Of course, the source is supplementary. Naturally, the chief producers of food products and agricultural raw materials are kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The main part of the production of private subsidiary farms goes to the satisfaction of the needs of their owners and the family members of kolkhoz farmers, workers and employees. Through private plots, they take care of roughly three-quarters of their needs for meat and milk and practically completely for vegetables, potatoes and eggs. This by itself is of considerable economic importance.

Only comparatively a small portion of the production of personal farms are sold on the kolkhoz market, through consumer cooperatives and the like. At the present time they provide approximately a tenth of the commodity production of farming and animal husbandry. While this is not so much, on the scale of our country this addition to the commodity food fund is rather significant.

Comrade V. Magdalyuk asks in his letter to the editors how can subsidiary farms produce products in quantities that are frequently comparable with the volume of production of kolkhozes and sovkhozes, which are much better provided with equipment. He also directs attention to the fact that the area of private plots is only slightly more than 6 million hectares while kolkhozes and sovkhozes have at their disposal hundreds of millions of hectares of agricultural fields. At the same time, kolkhozes, for example, produce certain products of farming and animal husbandry in smaller quantities than do subsidiary farms. What is this phenomenon due to?

In comparing the scales of production and the technical equipment of socialized and personal farms, it should first be pointed out that subsidiary farms play a more or less significant role in providing the population with only those agricultural products whose production as a rule is least mechanized. We mean potatoes and vegetables and animal-husbandry products. The cultivation of these crops and the production of animal-husbandry products in socialized farming use manual labor most of all. A quintal of potatoes on kolkhozes requires, for example, twice as much labor as a quintal of grain and a quintal of vegetables six times as much. The maintenance of livestock, pigs and poultry. High labor intensiveness hinders to a definite degree the production growth of potatoes, vegetables, meat, and milk on kolkhozes and sovkhozes that are experiencing a shortage of manpower.

More than 70 percent of the private-plot land is used by kolkhoz farmers, workers and employees for the planting of potatoes, vegetables and melon crops. This constitutes about a half of the total sown area for the country. At the same time, there is practically no cultivation on subsidiary farms of those crops whose production in the public sector is distinguished by a high level of mechanization. Thus on kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other state agricultural enterprises there are concentrated 99.3 percent of the sown area of grain crops and 99.5 percent of the industrial crops.

Although subsidiary farms play an important role in the production of potatoes and vegetables, their chief sector is not plant cultivation but animal husbandry. Almost two thirds of the value of the production of personal farms are to be attributed to the latter. Kolkhoz farmers spend three quarters of the time in the operation of the private farm on the maintenance of livestock and poultry. Let us point out that the population personally owns a significant part of the total number of livestock. Thus as of 1 January 1978 personal subsidiary farms maintained 23.3 million head of cattle (21 percent of the total number), including 13.4 million cows (31 percent) and 14.8 million pigs (27 percent).

It should be underscored that the development of subsidiary farms decisively depends on the public sector of agriculture. Thus the land on which private farming is operated is not owned by those citizens who use it. It remains the people's property and is turned over to them by the state and kolkhozes solely for their use. Furthermore, private plots are granted to citizens only under certain conditions. In particular, persons or those who systematically without particular reason refrain from work on the public farm of kolkhozes and sovkhozes may be deprived of the plots of land withdrawn from a kolkhoz.

Kolkhoz farmers, workers and employees practically do not grow fodder crops on their private plots and therefore cannot maintain livestock and poultry solely on the basis of their own subsidiary farming. They acquire as a rule coarse and succulent fodders from kolkhozes and sovkhozes, from concumer cooperatives and at state trade enterprises. Livestock owners have the use of hayfields and pasturages from state and kolkhoz lands, from the state forest fund, also equipment, transport, draft animals belonging to kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Thus the subsidiary farms of kolkhoz farmers, workers and employees can exist and develop only on the basis of a rise of public production.

Millions of people in our country are engaged in individual subsidiary farming on private plots. The majority of them today are not kolkhoz farmers (the relative share of kolkhoz peasantry among the rural population is steadily decreasing and the number of kolkhoz yards is being reduced) but workers and employees of sovkhozes and other state enterprises situated in rural localities and to some extent workers and employees living in cities and workers settlements. For all these working people, the operation of a subsidiary farm is a serious help in providing their families with fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, eggs and in many cases a source of additional income based on personal labor. From this point of view subsidiary farming plays an important role in the reproduction of rural labor resources.

It should be pointed out that private subsidiary farming permits bringing into production of agricultural products labor and material resources which cannot be effectively used in public production. Among those engaged in subsidiary farming, many are, for example, persons of pension age. According to the data of special surveys, of the total outlays of labor on subsidiary farms, 84 percent are pensioners and women combining labor in public production with care of children and other household duties.

The occupation of subsidiary farming is not just of economic significance. It has always been an inseparable element of the rural way of life and also a means of involving young people in farming labor. Comrade L.I. Brezhnev in his book "Virgin Lands" emphasized: "A rural inhabitant without farm appurtenances is like a tree without roots." There where normal conditions have been created for the operation of a subsidiary farm, people more closely tie their lot to the countryside, to its concerns and needs, and this has a favorable effect on the labor they are engaged in in public production.

Proportionately to the development of the socialist economy, the relative share of the population's subsidiary farms in the production of products (especially animal-husbandry products) is gradually reduced. Whereas in 1940 they produced 72 percent of the meat, 77 percent of the milk, at the present time, as was pointed out above, significantly less. Of course, the chief reason for this is the advancing growth of public production and rise of its efficiency. Of definite significance also was a reduction of the share and more recently of the size of the rural population in the composition of the country's population.

but production in the private sector of agriculture is being curtailed not relatively but also, unfortunately, absolutely. During 1971-1977 alone, it diminished by 5 percent. This exerts an influence on the growth rate of agricultural gross production as a whole, which also means on the possibilities of satisfying the growing requirements of the population. In recent years in a number of the country's regions, the numbers of cows, pigs and poultry privately owned have been reduced. It is becoming more frequent that those who formerly satisfied their requirements for animal-husbandry products from subsidiary farming now turn to state stores for them.

All this naturally provokes concern because it makes it more difficult to provide the population with food products, especially animal-husbandry products. An increase in the production of meat and other animal-husbandry products under present-day conditions is considered a first-priority task for rural workers. In this connection, the documents of the July and November (1978) Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee emphasize that the solution of the problem of an uninterrupted provision of the inhabitants of cities and villages with meat and other products of nutrition will have to be ensured through the development of the collective farming of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and of private subsidiary farms by means of a growth of production of the products in all sectors of our agriculture.

The party calls for the decisive abandonment of an incorrect attitude toward the private subsidiary farm as something alien to our economy. Relatively recently, in the course of discussion of the draft of the new USSR Constitution, some people favored proposals to liquidate or sharply restrict the operation of subsidiary farms. Meantime this under present-day conditions would inflict serious damage to our national economy and would result in particular to additional difficulties in supplying the population with foodstuffs. Private subsidiary farming should not be restricted, rather care should be displayed with respect to it and every possible assistance should be rendered to it--such is the way the matter has been put in the decisions of the 25th party congress and in documents of subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee.

Judging by everything, a negative approach to private subsidiary farms is due to the fact that there are still encountered cases where they are used for the purpose of extracting speculative revenues. The system of control over the operation of subsidiary farms without a doubt has to be improved. Our laws, and first of all our Fundamental Law, forbid receiving income not earned by labor and the use of the personal property of citizens to the detriment of the interests of society. These rules must be firmly implemented. Any sort of speculators and also individuals evading labor on a collectivized farm must be rebuffed by local organs of government and public organizations and by all Soviet people. At the same time, it should be kept in mind that the essence of private farming is by no means determined by such people but by honest workers.

Incidentally, private subsidiary farms should not be confused with individually held farms at the time of collectivization. Such an individual farmer

secures all his income from his farm. Today the basis of the significant rises in the income of kolkhoz farmers stems from participation in public production (they obtain 54 percent of their income from it) and public funds of consumption (20 percent of the income). Only about one quarter of the aggregate income of kolkhoz families is provided by subsidiary farming. The difference is not only quantitative but also qualitative. The private plot has truly become subsidiary, and the well-being of the worker is no definitely connected to the growth of public production.

On the basis of its social origin, subsidiary farming undoubtedly has a social character. Its existence is determined by the current level of development of productive forces in the village and the existent degree of collectivization. It is not connected with the exploitation of foreign labor and is based on the personal labor of citizens and members of their families. Subsidiary farming is carried on by workers of socialist enterprises, who receive for their labor in public production funds which they need in particular for the operation of subsidiary farming. Individual labor activity, including in the sphere of agriculture, is a constitutional right of Soviet citizens. The new USSR Constitution specifies the guaranteees for the realization of this right. Here, for example, it is pointed out that the state and kolkhozes provide assistance to citizens in the operation of a subsidiary farm.

Speaking at the November Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev emphasized that it is necessary "to create a definite public climate in which kolkhoz farmers and sovkhoz workers come to feel that by raising livestock and poultry at home, they are performing a useful state job. In the creation of such a climate, an important role belongs to the party organizations of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and to leaders of these enterprises as well as to local governmental organs called upon to provide assistance to citizens in the operation of subsidiary farming, but not, of course, to the detriment of public production.

In September 1977, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted the decree "On the Private Subsidiary Farms of Kolkhoz Farmers, Workers, Employees and Other Citizens and Collective Horticulture and Market Gardening." This decree is aimed first of all at the development of animal husbandry on subsidiary farms. It provides granting of credits for acquisition of cows (in an amount of up to 500 rubles) and heifers (up to 250 rubles) for a five-year period, the raising for sale to the population on those farms where conditions exist for this of piglets and young poultry in quantities fully satisfying the need for them and also providing assistance to the population in the acquisition of bee colonies.

Sovkhozes are under the obligation, while kolkhozes are recommended, to provide in their production-financial plans measures for making available to workers, employees, kolkhoz farmers and specialists living in rural localities coarse and succulent fodders for livestock and poultry, to allocate fields for the grazing of livestock and for hay-mowing and to carry out plowing of private plots. For each union republic there have been determined to

the end of the five-year plan the volume of sale to the population of mixed feeds for livestock that is personally owned. The decree obliges local party, soviet, agricultural organs, ministries and departments to implement also other measures contributing to increasing production on private subsidiary farms and also to the development of collective horticulture and market gardening.

In recent years, there has been a reduction of commodities from subsidiary farms offered for sale on markets. For this reason a great deal of attention is being given, in addition to improving the organization of trade at kolkhoz markets, to providing assistance in the sale of surpluses of the products of private farms, particularly through concumer cooperatives. The press is correctly bringing up the question concerning the need for organizing the production of small-size equipment for rural workers and for expanding the output of farm, orchard and garden implements, the demand for which is not now being satisfied anywhere near completely.

The measures adopted by the party and the government for the development of subsidiary farming is already producing positive results. Thus, for example, the number of cattle and pigs privately owned has increased somewhat and correspondingly the production of animal-husbandry products. The creation of favorable conditions for the operation of subsidiary farms of kolkhoz farmers, workers and employees contributes in this way to fuller use of this important reserve component of production growth of agricultural products.

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WINTER CROP SOWING OPERATIONS IN KALMYK ASSR

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 79 p 1

[Article by V. Oliyanchuk (Kalmyk ASSR): "Value of an Autumn Day"]

[Text] The Kalmyk grain growers have commenced sowing their winter crops.

Even old timers claim that it is not every year that one sees such green landscape in the Kalmyk Steppe region as summer yields to autumn. Usually yellow and brown colors prevail here during this period. This situation developed owing to the abundant and beneficial rainfall which fell in late July and early August, at which time the grain growers were just beginning to cope with the brief and hot harvest campaign. The abundant rainfall quenched the thirst of the fields.

"In all, we are carrying out our sowing work on almost 435,000 hectares throughout the republic. This area is roughly 27,000 hectares over and above the planned task" stated the head of the Agricultural Department of the Kalmytskaya Oblast Party Committee, O. Cherepantsev, "We do not have an abundance of arable land. Such land constitutes only one seventh of the agricultural land of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

Winter sowing work is presently in progress in Gorodovikovskiy Rayon -- an age-old rival of the residents of Yashaltinskiy Rayon in the socialist competition. One half of the areas here are already occupied by new and promising varieties of wheat. The field preparation tempo at the XXII Parts"yezd Kolkhoz is high and the quality of the work good. The machine operators for the sowing complexes -- there are two at the farm -- planned to complete their sowing work quickly: within 4 working days.

Among the residents of Yashaltinskiy Rayon, the workers attached to the Novyy Mir Kolkhoz are considered to be expert grain growers. They are headed by V. Grenenko, an individual who engages in agricultural research. Such new varieties of winter wheat as Priboy, Rostovchanka and Severo-donskaya have taken root on their fields for the very first time. Convinced of the productive power of these varieties, these workers shared the seed

with their neighbors. Having repeatedly drawn the conclusion that under local conditions winter wheat is more reliable than even the new varieties of winter rye, the kolkhoz is showing a clear preference for it. The Novyy Mir Kolkhoz is decisively following the path of non-moldboard soil cultivation: a barrier against soil erosion and increased yields. Thus at the present time, on areas prepared using precisely this method, the kolkhoz's grain growers are the first in the rayon and republic to commence their mass autumn sowing work.

The front of the sowing campaign in the Kalmyk ASSR is expanding. Everything would have been fine but for the fact that a majority of the rayons are experiencing a shortage of winter rye seed: the funds were allocated later and the sowing commenced earlier. The farmers are hoping to receive assistance from the ministries of agriculture and procurements for the Russian Federation and from the railroad workers, who will give the "green light" to the freight cars loaded with seed. Similar to a spring day, an autumn day is also important from the standpoint of obtaining food for the year.

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HARVESTING, SOWING OPERATIONS IN ORENBURGSKAYA OBLAST

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by M. Merzabekov (Orenburgskaya Oblast): "No Matters of Secondary Concern in Sowing Work"]

[Text] The decision has been made to plant winter crops on 512,000 hectares at kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Orenburgskaya Oblast. The weather conditions themselves argue in favor of winter crop sowing: there is adequate moisture in the soil for the seedlings and for plant development. At the present time, the best periods are at hand for planting the seed. Simultaneously with harvesting their grain and row crops, procuring feed and carrying out autumn plowing, the farmers are hurrying to plant the seed for tomorrow's harvest in the soil.

In Sol'-Iletskiy Rayon, 11,000 hectares of winter rye were sown during a 5-day period, between the 5th and 10th of August -- the best period for this zone. Moreover, cross-row sowing was employed for the entire area in the interest of achieving more uniform nourishment for the plants and use was made of windbreak strips in order to accumulate a greater amount of snow during the winter. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Novosergiyevskiy Rayon are the leaders in carrying out the August sowing work; today their winter crop fields are the largest. Strong interest in the future harvest is also being displayed in Orenburgskiy, Akbulakskiy and a number of other rayons.

At the Kolkhoz imeni Karl Marks in Buzulukskiy Rayon, a guaranteed yield of winter crops is being obtained annually under all types of weather conditions. This year the crops are being sown on fallow land here, land which was kept in weed-free condition throughout the entire summer and to which was applied three quintals of mineral fertilizer per hectare. For winter wheat, which is more sensitive to frosts, a selection is made here of fields located on slopes where greater quantities of snow usually accumulate, thus providing better protection for the plantings against freezing.

In addition to the tested regionalized varieties of winter crops -- Saratovskaya-4 rye and Mironovskaya-808 and Al'bidum-114 wheats -- a new

guest will make an appearance on some farms this year -- Chulpan dwarf rye, imported from the neighboring Bashkir ASSR.

But the logistical arrangements are not altogether favorable for the August sowing work: the oblast's farms lacked sufficient seed and had to seek assistance from the state, including 30,000 tons which had to be imported from the neighboring Bashkir ASSR, Tatar ASSR and Ul'yanovskaya Oblast. But there the harvesting of these crops is only commencing and here the sowing periods are at hand. In the situation that has developed, much depends upon the workers attached to the grain products system carrying out their tasks in an efficient and prompt manner.

The peak period of the field crop husbandry complex is at hand -- a period during which, as the saying goes, one hand harvests and the other sows. Today each motor is in operation. A high level of organizational ability is required in order to be able to handle all of the urgent work on a timely basis.

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SOWING OF WINTER CROPS IN STAVROPOL'SKIY KRAY

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 79 p 1

[Article by V. Pankratov (Stavropol'skiy Kray): "What Should Be Sown?"]

> [Excerpts] An abundant amount of rainfall fell on Stavropol'skiy Kray. Favorable conditions prevail in all areas for the sowing of winter crops. The rumbling of tractors is heard day and night out on the fields. The early bastard fallow was broken up on an area of 969,000 hectares prior to 1 August. This is 95,000 more hectares than planned. At the present time, the fallow fields are being tended and the fall plowing carried out. The farmers are striving to retain the moisture and to create all of the conditions required for obtaining a fine harvest next year.

The soil has been prepared in a fine manner for the winter crops on a majority of the farms in Grachevskiy, Blagodarnenskiy and Apanasenkovskiy rayons. A unique approach is being employed for each field. Flat cutting implements, shallow plows and heavy harrows are being used in those areas where the plows "turned over clumps." The arable land is being given a good fertilizer top dressing. The plans for the kray include applying approximately 10 million tons of organic fertilizers to the fields annually. This plan has already been fulfilled by slightly more than 80 percent. At the same time, the farms in Novoaleksandrovskiy, Kursavskiy, Turkmenskiy and Mineralovodskiy rayons appear to be in no hurry to apply a good top dressing to their winter crop areas. In all, only one half of the established norm for fertilizers has been moved out onto the fields here.

Great importance is being attached to the timely preparation of the seed. This work was completed in advance at the leading farms. An adequate supply of seed was created for the autumn sowing operations in Petrovskiy, Sovetskiy, Arzgirskiy, Kochubeyevskiy and other rayons. Moreover the seed stock here is of first class quality and includes high reproductions.

But is this the situation in all areas? The seed processing rates are still low. The sovkhozes and kolkhozes in Turkmenskiy, Stepnovskiy, Kurskiy and Budennovskiy rayons have all fallen behind in this regard.

There are objective difficulties which are hindering successful preparations for the sowing work. There is a shortage of disk tillers in the kray and the demand for them is great. There are not enough heavy harrows or other soil cultivating implements available for the powerful tractors. There is a shortage of cultivator "blades."

Hot weather has come to Stavropol'skiy Kray. The farmers are preparing for the sowing work. The extent and quality of the harvest for the final year of the five-year plan are dependent upon the manner in which this work is carried out.

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ADVANTAGES OF EARLY, RAPID AUTUMN PLOWING STRESSED

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Sep 79 p 1

[Article by M. Zaripov (Tatar ASSR): "Autumn Plowing"]

[Text] This year's harvest season has confirmed the wisdom of an ancient rule: the sooner the harvest work is completed, the greater will be the quantities of grain obtained at those farms where each seasonal operation, similar to all current economic work, is carried out taking into account future prospects.

A fine example has been set by the machine operators at the Beregovoy Sovkhoz in Rybno-Slobodskiy Rayon. They were the first in the rayon to complete their harvest work, they sowed their winter crops on schedule and furnished assistance to their neighbors and they are carrying out their autumn plowing at a good tempo.

More and more farms are completing their harvest operations in the autonomous republic. Immediately following the farmers in Laishevskiy Rayon, the workers in Vysokogorskiy, Kukmorskiy, Sabinskiy, Kuybyshevskiy and other rayons threshed their fields. However the tractors are being shifted over to autumn plowing very slowly. Gaps are occurring in the large conveyer operation and, in any case, the plowing work is not being carried out at the same rapid pace as the work on the grain tracts. The plowing units available at kolkhozes and sovkhozes throughout the republic are capable of plowing 90,000-100,000 hectares of autumn fields daily. But there has not been one day on which the farmers even came close to this index. Even during the second half of August, when warm sunny weather prevailed, the plowing units at best produced only one half of their possible output. On some days, only 56,000 hectares or 3.2 hectares per tractor are being plowed. In some rayons, the performance of the tractors is considerably worse. In Ylabuzhskiy and Pestrechinskiy rayons, for example, the output per tractor amounted to only 2 hectares.

Such overlapping in the organization of work out on the autumn fields leads to delays in the carrying out of the plowing work; the plows lag behind the combines. Yet the best grain develops out on those fields which were plowed early, rapidly and in the best manner during the autumn period.

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IMPROVED SOIL PREPARATION FOR WINTER CROPS REQUIRED

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 Aug 79 p 1

[Article: "Soil for the Winter Crops"]

[Text] In the complex of agrotechnical measures employed for obtaining high winter crop yields, a very eminent position is occupied by timely and high quality soil preparation. At the present time, of 11.5 million hectares set aside for winter crops throughout the republic, approximately 6.5 million hectares have been prepared. In the southern oblasts, 70-80 percent of the planned areas have already been plowed. In the northern oblasts, the forest district and also in a number of forest-steppe rayons, which were some of the first to commence the sowing work, this index is unfortunately considerably lower. For example, only 174,000 of 424,000 hectares have been prepared in Sumskaya Oblast. The plowing schedule is not being carried out. There are rayons throughout the oblast -- Trostyanetskiy, Shostkinskiy, Lebedinskiy -- where the plowing is proceeding in a fine manner. However, barely three fourths of the plowing task was carried out during a 5-day period in Krolevetskiy, Glukhovskiy and Seredino-Budskiy rayons.

The soil preparation schedules are not being carried out in Poltavskaya, Cherkasskaya and Kivevskaya oblasts. Moreover, in some rayons and on some farms the plowing work is being carried out not only slowly but also poorly. Under the conditions prevailing this year, great importance is being attached to surface cultivation of the soil in behalf of the winter crops. However, this progressive method is by no means being employed in all areas. In Cherkasskiy Rayon of Cherkasskaya Oblast, of 416 hectares of pulse predecessor crops at the 50-Richchya Zhovtnya Kolkhoz, surface cultivation was carried out on only 140 hectares. Moreover, even this small amount of work involved violations of the agrotechnical requirements. In all, only 150 hectares were prepared using this method, despite the fact that three times this amount was prepared at the neighboring Kolkhoz imeni XXII S"yezda KPSS.

There have been incidents involving failure to fertilize the areas on which the winter crops were to be sown. In this same Cherkasskiy Rayon, ammonia

liquor was not applied during plowing at one farm. In Belotserkovskiy Rayon of Kiyevskaya Oblast, plowing was carried out without fertilizer applications at the Kolkhoz Radyans'ka Ukraina and the Sovkhoz imeni Kalinin, despite the fact that farmyard manure was available at these farms. On the other hand, fine examples are also to be found in this same rayon. Roughly 2,500 hectares must be plowed at the Progress Kolkhoz. As of the moment, almost 2,000 hectares have already been plowed, with 40-50 tons of organic fertilizer having been applied to each hectare.

Initial autumn plowing work must not be overlooked when preparing soil for the winter crops. The earlier the autumn plowing is carried out, the better will be the soil quality. Meanwhile, in almost all areas this important work is being viewed as being only of secondary importance. Proper attention is being given to early autumn plowing only in Krymskaya and Zaporozhskaya oblasts.

The establishment of a good foundation for obtaining good yields next year requires: good fertilization of each hectare, the carrying out of soil preparation work for the sowing of winter crops during the best periods and the carrying out of other agrotechnical requirements.

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IMPORTANCE OF AUTUMN SOWING OPERATIONS STRESSED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Aug 79 p 1

[Article: "Winter Fields of the Country"]

[Text] One fourth of this year's grain harvest has not yet been gathered in and yet an experienced farmer is already displaying concern for the sowing of the winter crops. "Winter sowing means certain grain," reads a popular saying. And this is truly so. The winter grains occupy less than one fourth of the grain fields and yet they furnish almost one third of the all-union grain harvest. In their zone, they surpass the cropping power of spring crops. This year, an extremely complicated one, these crops have been cultivated well and they have produced good yields on farms in various regions throughout the country -- in Odesskaya Oblast, in Krasnodarskiy and Stavropol'skiy krays, in Rostovskaya and Belgorodskaya oblasts and in the Volga region. The harvest work has just begun in the nonchernozem zone and reports being received from the various areas testify to the fact that the winter crops will not disappoint us.

However, at many kolkhozes and sovkhozes the opportunities for increasing the gross yields of grain by means of winter crops are still not being employed to a sufficient degree. At times they are being planted following poor predecessor crops, in a number of areas the clean fallow tracts, which serve to guarantee high yields, have been reduced in size and the soil is being cultivated in a crude manner prior to sowing. As a result, poor seedlings emerge and shortfalls in crops ensue. An important factor is the improper psychological mood of some specialists: they maintain that if a portion of the winter crops is lost, the difference can be made up using spring crops. The local soviet and economic organs must counter such attitudes sharply and raise the culture of the winter fields in every possible way.

A favorable situation exists for this at the present time. In the principal winter crop sowing regions, the harvest campaign began somewhat earlier than the traditional periods and the grain crops have a low straw content, thus permitting the fields to be cleared rapidly. Moreover, rain fell in almost

all areas and thus the soil contains adequate moisture. All of these factors constitute fine prerequisites for raising the agrotechnical level for the cultivation of winter crops and for increasing the grain yield for the following year. Many farms are devoting special attention to rye as a valuable food crop and one with good winter-hardiness. Proper action is being taken in those areas where, taking local potential into account, the plans call for an increase in the proportion of winter grains in the overall structure of the grain fields.

Obviously, each zone has its own complexities. In northwestern Russia and in the nonchernozem zone, where the winter sowing commences earlier than in the chernozem oblasts or in the south and the harvest campaign is just now commencing, the principal task is that of rapidly preparing the soil and applying both mineral and organic fertilizers. Very little time is available in which to accomplish all this and thus all of the elements in the sowing production line must carry out their tasks in an efficient and well coordinated manner. In the Ukraine and Moldavia, a great amount of importance is attached to accumulating as much productive moisture in the soil as possible and to selecting the predecessor crops in a thorough manner. The North Caucasus and Volga regions have their own particular peculiarities. But scientific endeavors in all areas counsel that one must not be carried away by deep soil cultivation, but rather use should be made, where possible, of the surface cultivation method. In short, the kolkhoz and sovkhoz specialists are familiar with the recommendations made by the scientific and agricultural organs and thus importance is attached to following these recommendations, to avoiding over-simplifications of the technology for cultivating the winter crops and to adhering in an accurate manner to the optimum periods for sowing them.

The majority of farms have adequate supplies of good seed available for the future crops. Unfortunately however, some of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes this year will necessarily have to sow their winter crops using freshly harvested seed, since carry-over funds were not created earlier. Towards this end, use should be made of seed being obtained from fallow fields and irrigated tracts. In those areas where it is necessary to carry out exchange operations, the work should be completed quickly and efficiently.

Deserving of attention is the initiative displayed by soviet and economic organs in a number of oblasts in Central Asia, southern Kazakhstan and western Siberia. These organs are orienting the kolkhozes and sovkhozes towards expanding their winter crop areas in a judicious manner. Certainly, they are not easy to grow here. But the winter crop fields will produce fine results for a skilful and prudent farmer. For example, some farms in Omskaya and Kustanayskaya oblasts and in Altayskiy Kray are obtaining 30-40 quintals of grain per hectare from clean strip fallow. Persistent improvements are required in the work aimed at cultivating the winter crops in new regions. The USSR Ministry of Agriculture and VASKhNIL [All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin] and its scientific centers must express their opinions in this regard.

The local soviets must play an important role in organizing the autumn sowing work. The deputies have accumulated considerable experience in mobilizing forces and resources for the successful carrying out of the harvest work and other operational agricultural campaigns. This experience must now be employed on the winter crop fields, where a large volume of work remains to be carried out. Experience has shown that the best method for carrying out this work consists of forming and employing complex detachments for the sowing work, with use being made of the Ipatovo method. The local soviets must ensure the mass introduction of this method, so that the sowing work can be carried out during the best periods and with minimal expenditures.

During the course of harvesting this year's crops, the farmers, just as in the past, will at the same time display concern for next year's grain crops. This grain must be of good quality. This will depend to a large degree upon this year's autumn sowing work being carried out in an exemplary manner. It should be carried out in a business-like, creative and organized manner!

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BRIEFS

SOWING OF WINTER CROPS--Kemerovo--The sowing of winter crops has been completed in Kemerovskaya Oblast. The kolkhozes and sovkhozes have expanded their winter fields to a considerable degree. Particularly pleasing to the eye are the healthy seedlings of Saratovskaya-4 rye and the new Chulpan variety, developed by Bashkir plant breeders. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Sep 79 p 1] 7026

VOLGOGRADSKAYA OBLAST FIELD WORK--The oblast's farmers have completed their harvesting of grain crops. At the present time, they are concentrating their efforts on other types of field work. The winter crops have been sown on 847,000 hectares. Three million tons of coarse feed and 3.6 million tons of silage have been procured. Meanwhile, the plowing of the soil is proceeding slowly: autumn plowing has been carried out on only 1.1 million hectares, or less than one third of the plan. The party, soviet and professional trade union organizations must carry out a great amount of work if the competition is to be truly open, creative, business-like and mutually demanding. It can and must become an important instrument in the campaign to successfully carry out the plans and socialist obligations. [Excerpt] [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Sep 79 p 1] 7026

ONE MILLION HECTARES PLOWED--Stavropol'--The Stavropol' farmers are making preparations for next year's harvest. They have already plowed, in behalf of the winter grain crops, one million hectares of land that became available following the harvest campaign. The furrows turned over early in the steppe regions will furnish worthy increases in yields. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Aug 79 p 1] 7026

IMPROVED WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION--Ul'yanovsk, 22 Jul--The mass sowing of hemp, for use in the establishment of windbreak strips, has commenced on farms in the Central Volga region. This plant has proved its high effectiveness when there is even snow distribution on winter crop plantings. Winter wheat productivity on controlled plots turned out to be 10-12 quintals of grain higher per hectare than that obtained from fields having conventional windbreak strips. [Text] [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jul 79 p 1] 7026

WINTER GRAIN PLANTINGS INCREASED--Voronezh, 6 Aug--Compared to other grain crops, winter grains grown in the central chernozem zone furnish higher yields. Taking this fact into consideration, the oblast's farms resolved to expand their winter crop fields by 380,000 hectares this year, thus increasing these plantings to 1 million hectares. At the present time, the farmers are making intense preparations for the sowing work. Tractor units are working around-the-clock as they plow up the fields. More than 700,000 hectares have already been prepared. The plowing work being carried out on farms in Verkhnemamonskiy, Bogucharskiy, Kalacheyevskiy, Pavlovskiy, Petropavlovskiy and other rayons is proceeding in an organized manner. In these areas the fields are practically already prepared to receive the seed. In competing to achieve the best indices, many machine operators are overfulfilling their shift norms on a daily basis. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 7 Aug 79 p 1] 7026

LIPETSKAYA OBLAST SOWING OPERATIONS--Lipetsk--Compared to last year, the Lipetsk farmers have expanded their winter grain crop fields by almost twofold. The harvest campaing has reached a peak on the kolkhoz and sovkhoz chernozem fields and tractors with sowing machines have already made their appearance alongside the harvesting units. Yesterday, in addition to reports on the quantity of grain crops thrashed, the oblast operations headquarters began receiving information on the winter crop sowing work. Select seed has been planted in the soil on the initial 1,000 hectares. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 Aug 79 p 1] 7026

WINTER CROP SOWINGS--Lipetsk--The Lipetsk machine operators carried out their sowing of winter crops in a high quality manner and during the best period. These crops have been planted on 530,000 hectares, almost two times more than the figure for last year. A green carpet of seedlings has appeared on many fields of grain farms in Dobrinskiy, Usmanskiy, Terbunskiy and Gryazinskiy rayons. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 9 Sep 79 p 1] 7026

ALTAYSKIY KRAY GRAIN HARVEST--On the vast expanses of the Altay region, from the Kulunda Steppe to the mountain spurs of the Salair range, the harvest campaign is in full swing. The kray's farmers must harvest their grain crops from an area of 4.7 million hectares. Twenty five thousand combines and 14,000 harvesters have been moved out onto the fields. Following the example set by the workers in Ipatovskiy Rayon, all of the equipment has been combined into 1,528 harvesting-transport complexes. The main concern of the grain growers in this largest grain area of Siberia is that of harvesting the crops rapidly and without losses and fulfilling their obligations with regard to the sale of grain. As usual, the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the eastern zone, where the main winter crop areas are located, were the first to commence their harvest operations. The spring crops had been scorched in Tselinnyy Rayon and thus the winter crops had to make up for this loss. Very pleasing to the eyes are the Vyatka fields in Sovetskiy and Kosikhinskiy rayons. "Winter rye is our traditional crop" stated the director of the Sovetskiy Sovkhoz, V. Tiptsov, "and although the yields are average -- 17-18 quintals per hectare -- we nevertheless gain in time, since the rye ripens

earlier. Experience has underscored the advantages to be realized from growing winter crops in Siberia. They ripen earlier than the spring crops. This makes it possible to condense the amount of time consumed by the harvest work. The kray party committee and the kray executive committee, jointly with the economic organs, are pursuing a course aimed at expanding the rye plantings. During the next few years, the plans call for the winter crop fields to be increased from 150,000 to 250,000 hectares. [Excerpt] [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Aug 79 p 1] 7026

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